

Eagle Island Committee

Agenda

July 31, 2006

9 am to noon

City Council Chambers

Eagle City Hall, 660 E. Civic Lane

- 9:00 Welcome and introduction of guests (Chair Nancy Merrill)
- 9:15 Review of July 25 charettes (Beck and Baird Staff)
- 10: 00 Discussion of charettes (All)
- 11:00 Combining of charette ideas into a single draft vision (All, lead by Dan Baird)
- Noon Adjourn

In attendance, Linda Clark, Scott VanHoff, Sharon Murray, Ernie Lombard, Bob Meinen, Rick Just, Rick Brown, Gary Shelley, Hal Bunderson, Nancy Merrill, David Ricks, Dan Baird, Jan Johns, Jim Mihan, Doug Strong, Jim Thomas, Brayton Willis, Steve Sweet, Elaine Clegg, Tom Chelstrom, Nancy VanOrsdale, Tom Rogers, C. Beck, Dawn Hall, Eric Milsted, Gary Martinez, Chuck Ferguson, Sue Sullivan.

The committee reviewed the vision maps from the July 25 planning charettes. There was much commonality between the two visions. Both included a wetland interpretive center, an amphitheater, primitive and group camping, extensive bike and walking paths, retention of the existing waterslide, and increased picnicking opportunities. Both visions included extensive canoeing opportunities through the development of small lakes and channels across the park. One vision (Cottonwoods) included an ice rink/large picnic shelter and emergency access on Mace Road. The other (Wet and Wild) had more extensively envisioned wetlands, a river lab and canoe/Kayak portages, as well as a dedicated dog training area and an area potentially dedicated to the display of historic structures.

There was discussion about long term maintenance costs of a refrigerated ice rink. Consensus seemed to be that designing a large picnic shelter that could be flooded when ambient temperatures made skating possible was the best course of action. The shelter will remain in the plan as a placeholder, with ice skating a discussion for the future.

Technical experts invited to the meeting said that the creation of channels and lakes, even to the point where water could flow from one channel of the Boise River to the other across the park, were feasible. A complete hydrology study would need to be accomplished before final design, to assure there would be no negative impacts up or downstream from flooding, and to assure continued delivery of irrigation water downstream. Development of this extent will require a new FEMA map of the island. That includes a public process and takes about six months. There could also be FEMA mitigation funds available for some parts of the project.

Neither vision would negatively impact a significant number of cottonwood trees, but the committee learned that if trees come out, we will need to replace them at the rate of about 7 to 1.

Optimum size for an amphitheater seems to be between 500 and 750 person capacity.

The committee determined that we should minimize the number of parking lots as much as possible.

Partnerships for the wetland center should include, at a minimum, School District #2, University of Idaho, BSU, Fish and Game and perhaps NOAA. Director Meinen suggested that the center be as natural as possible, with few mechanical needs in order to avoid future maintenance costs. It should be a living laboratory, incorporating technology for remote viewing, perhaps hooking state parks into the center through distance learning.

The visitor center should include an introduction to all Idaho state parks.

The committee decided that there would be no net decrease in wetlands in the final plan.

RV camping will be included, starting with about 36 sites and giving room to grow to about double that.

The next meeting will be from 9 to noon at Eagle City Hall on August 15.